



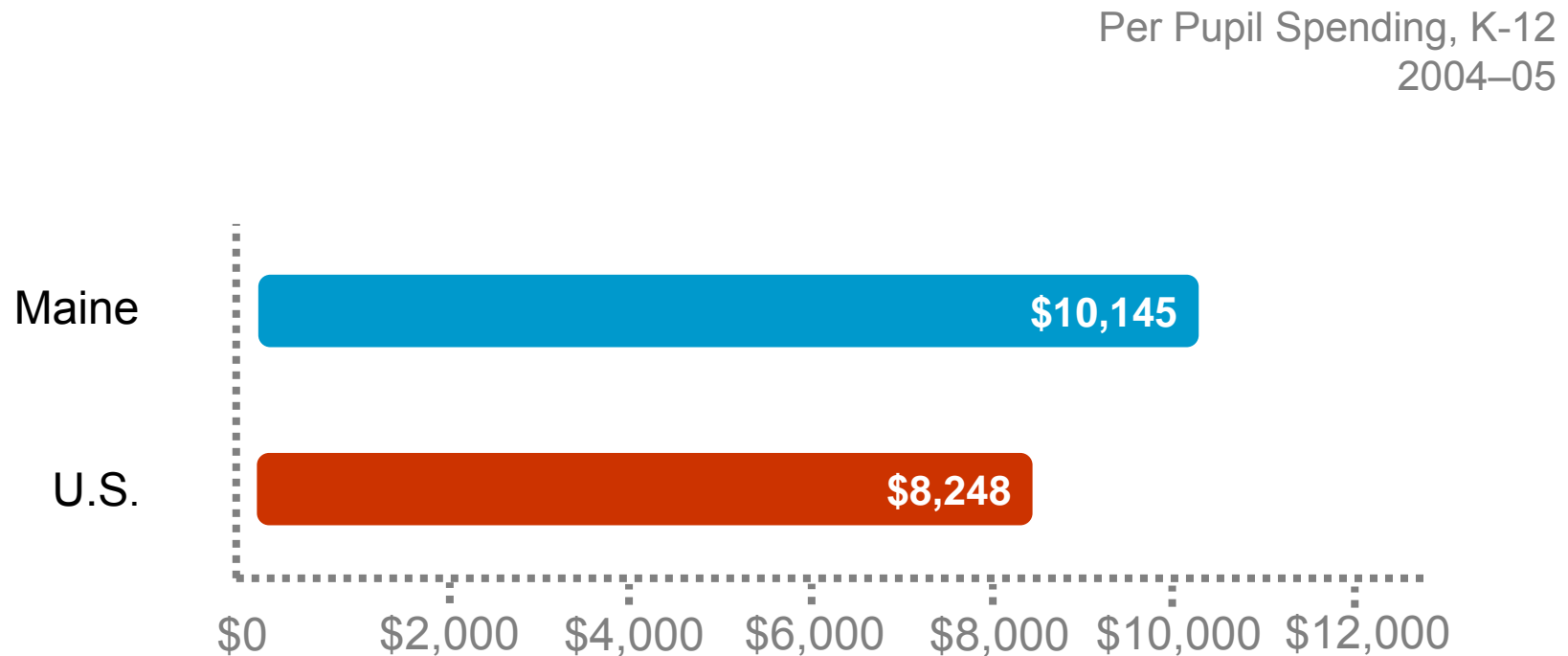
 **The LSRS Initiative**

***Local Schools, Regional Support***

Regional Centers for Educational Excellence

## Why Local Schools, Regional Support Initiative?

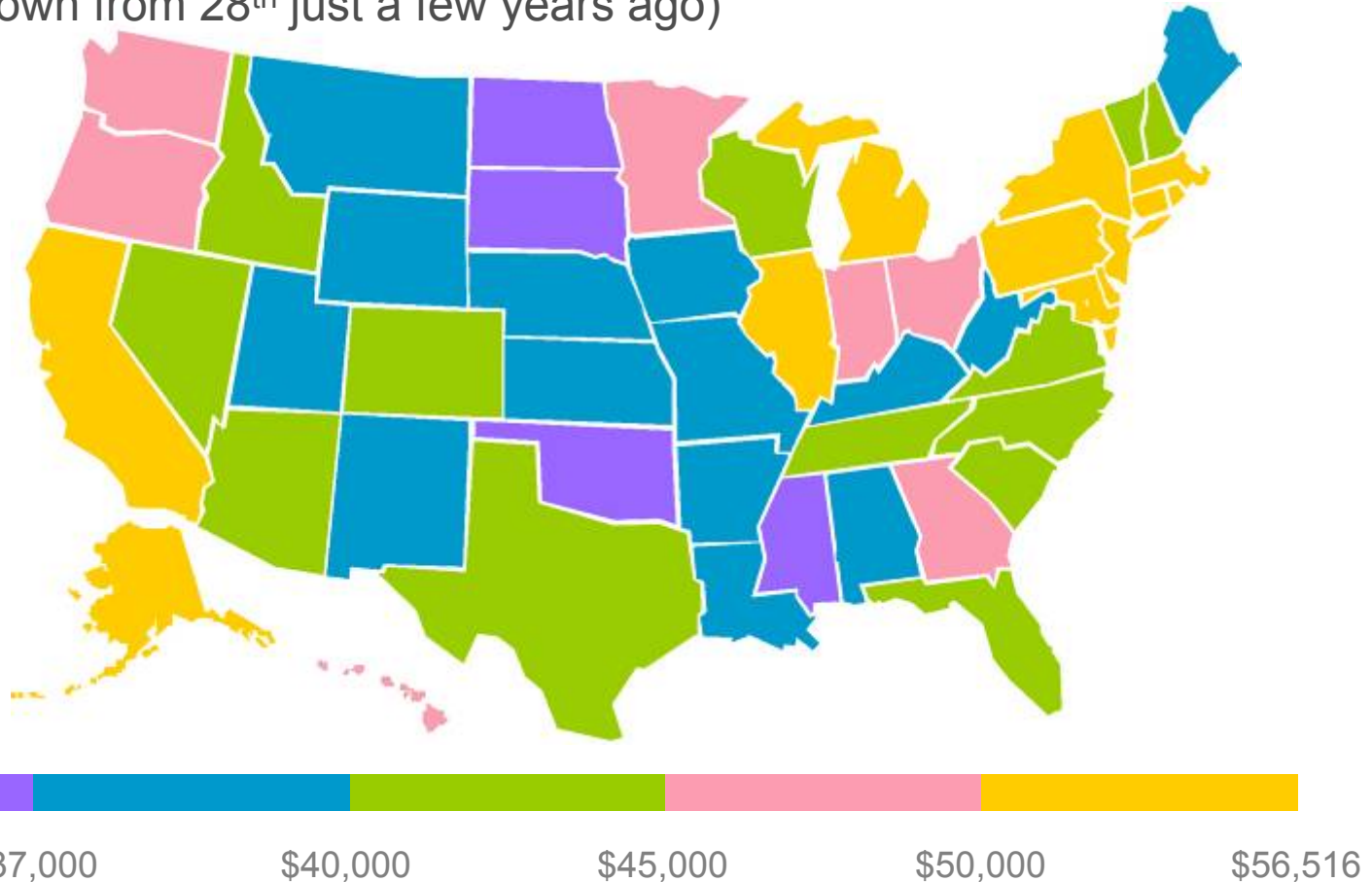
The State of Maine spends more per student than the national average ...



## Why LSRS?

... while paying low teacher salaries as measured nationally ...

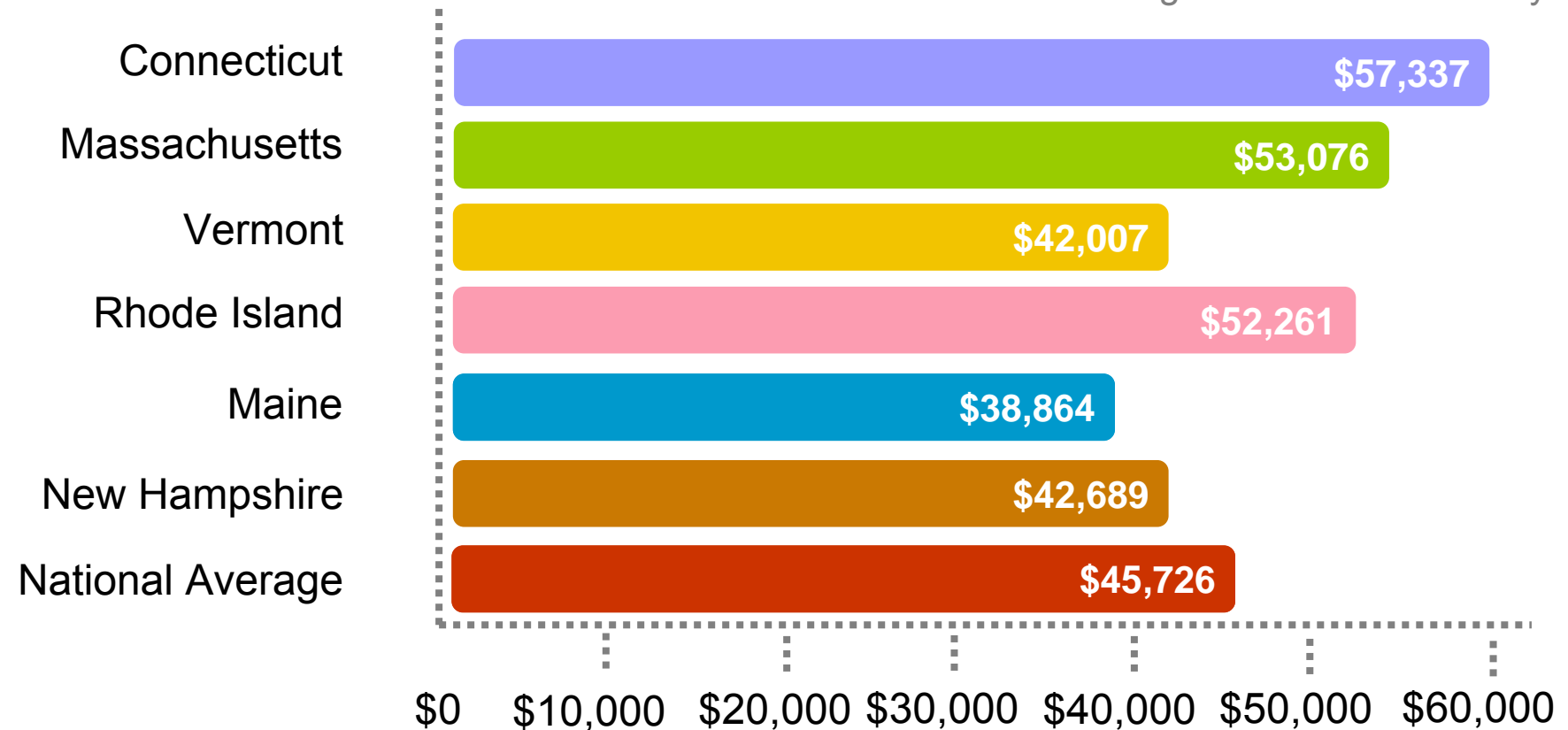
(35<sup>th</sup> in nation, down from 28<sup>th</sup> just a few years ago)



## Why LSRS?

... and the lowest teacher salaries in New England

Average Teacher Salaries by State

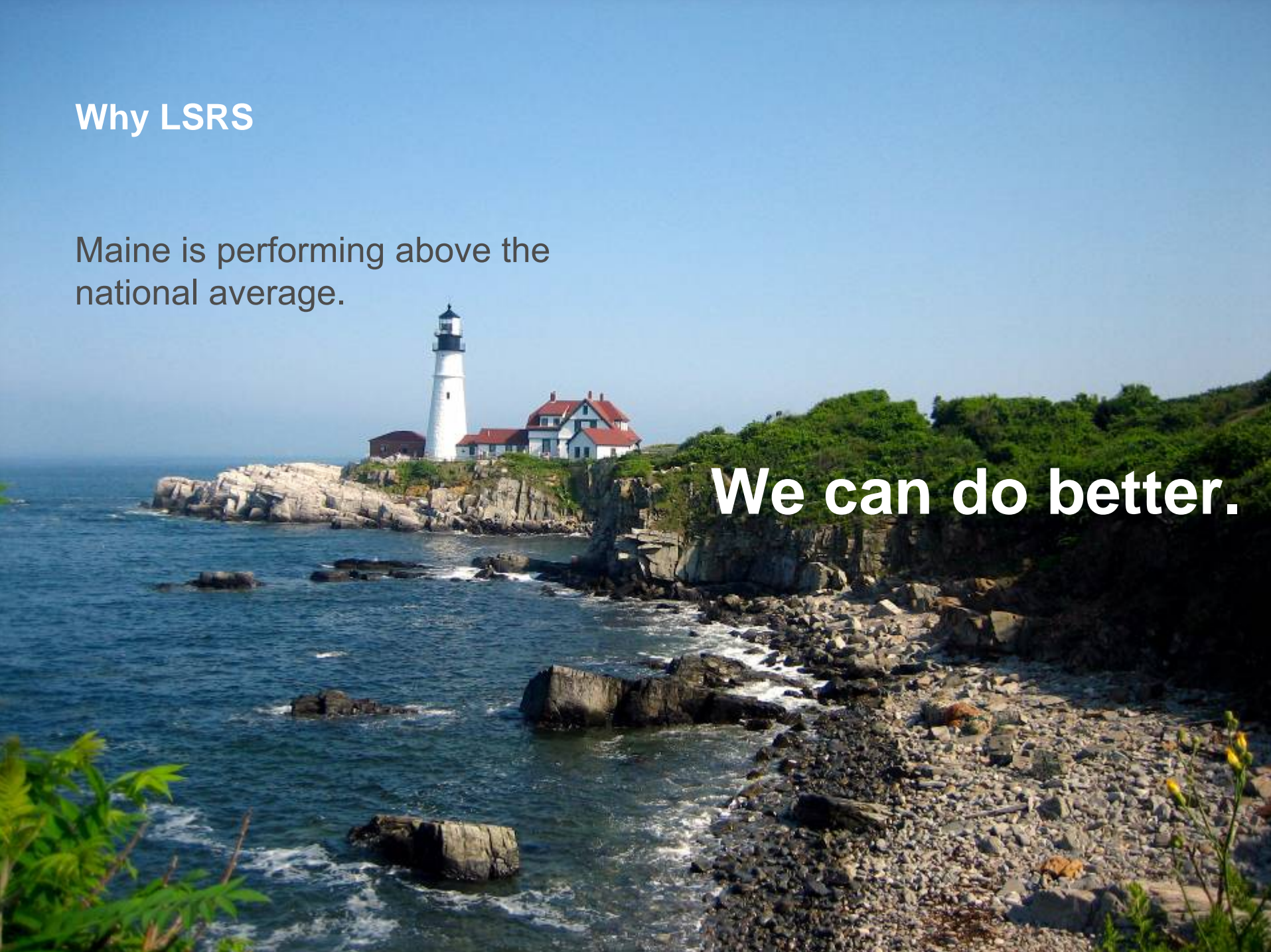




## Why LSRS

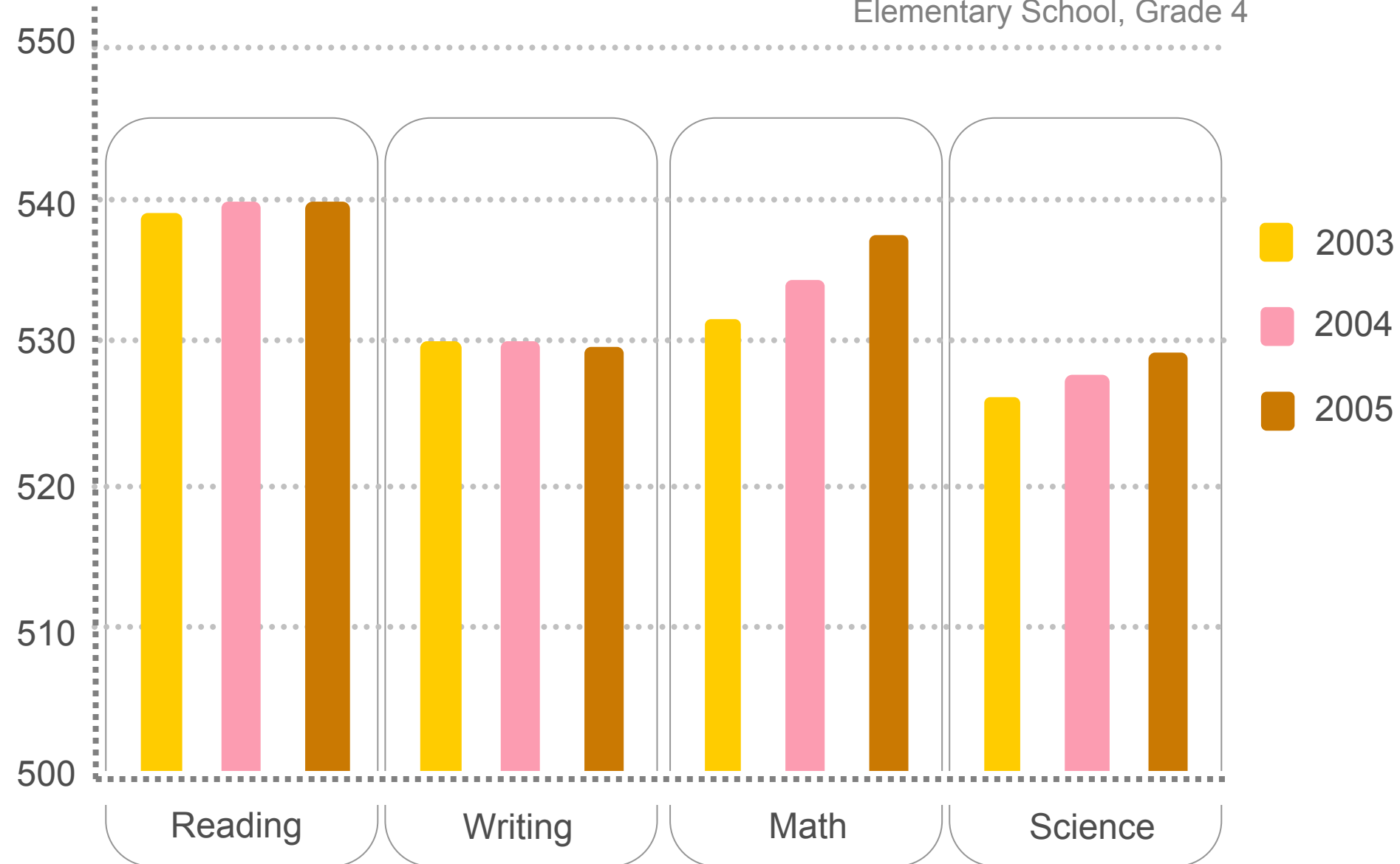
Maine is performing above the national average.

**We can do better.**



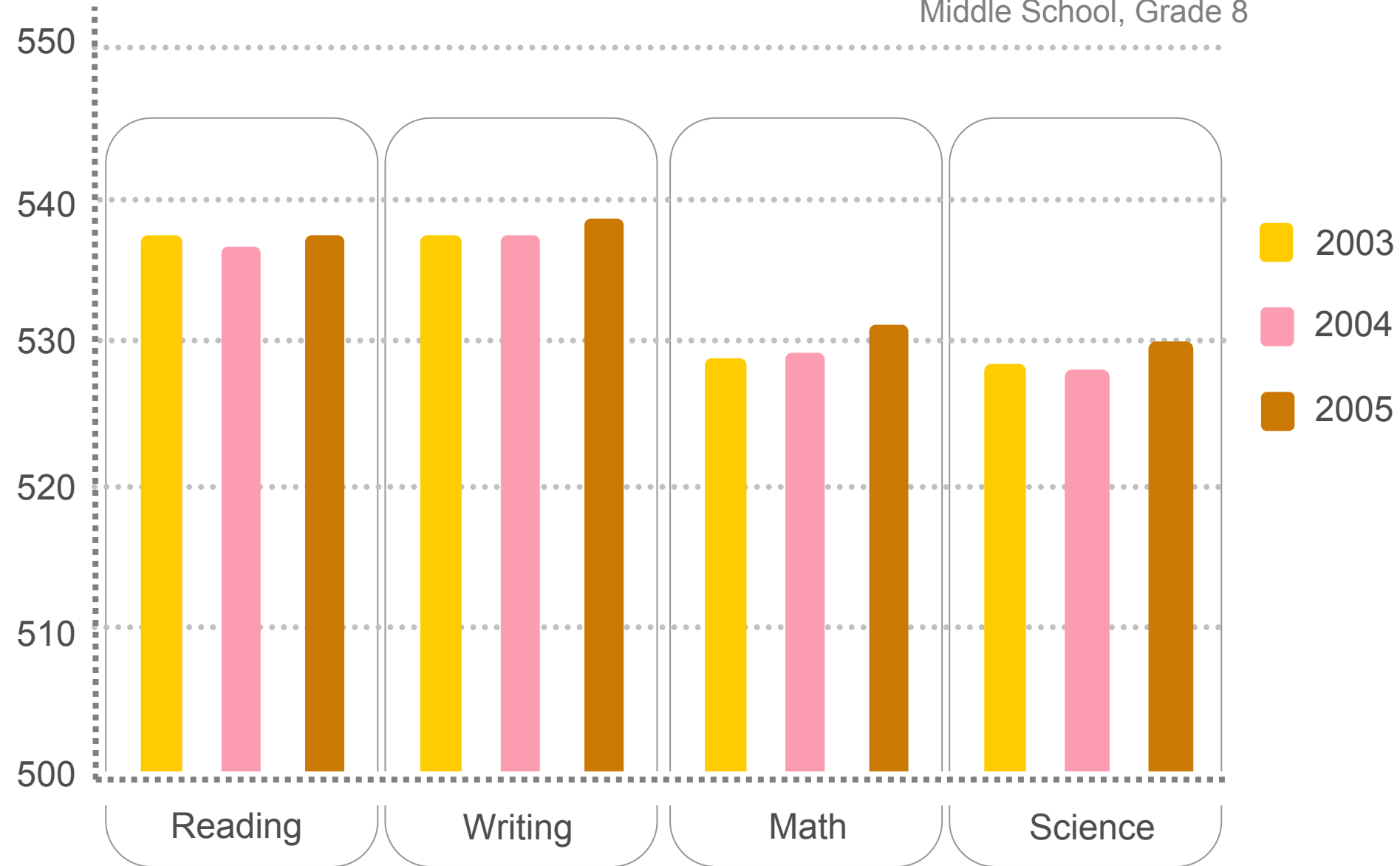
# MEA Scale Score Trends 2003–2005

Elementary School, Grade 4



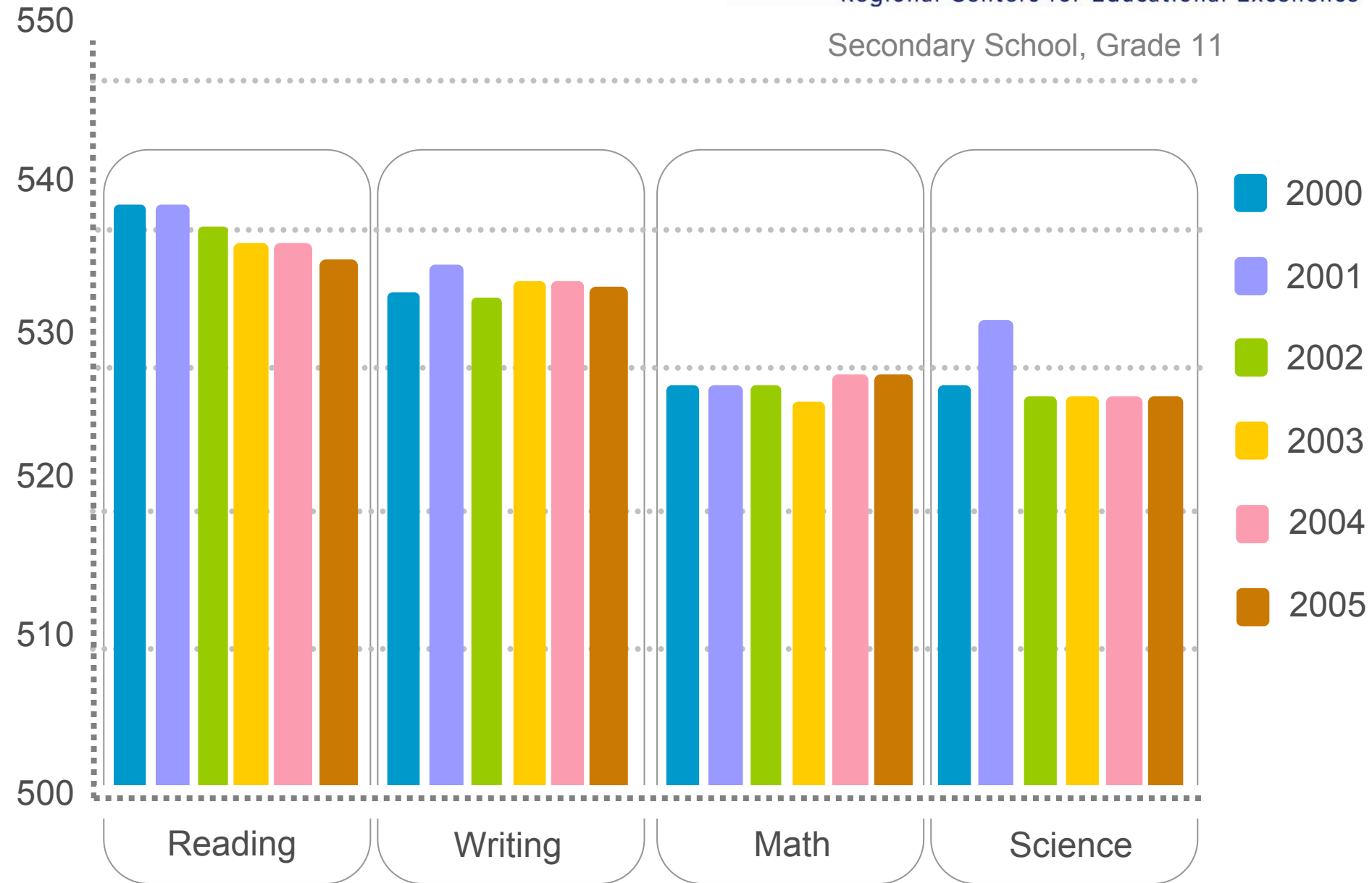
# MEA Scale Score Trends 2003–2005

Middle School, Grade 8



# MEA Scale Score Trends 2000–2005

Secondary School, Grade 11

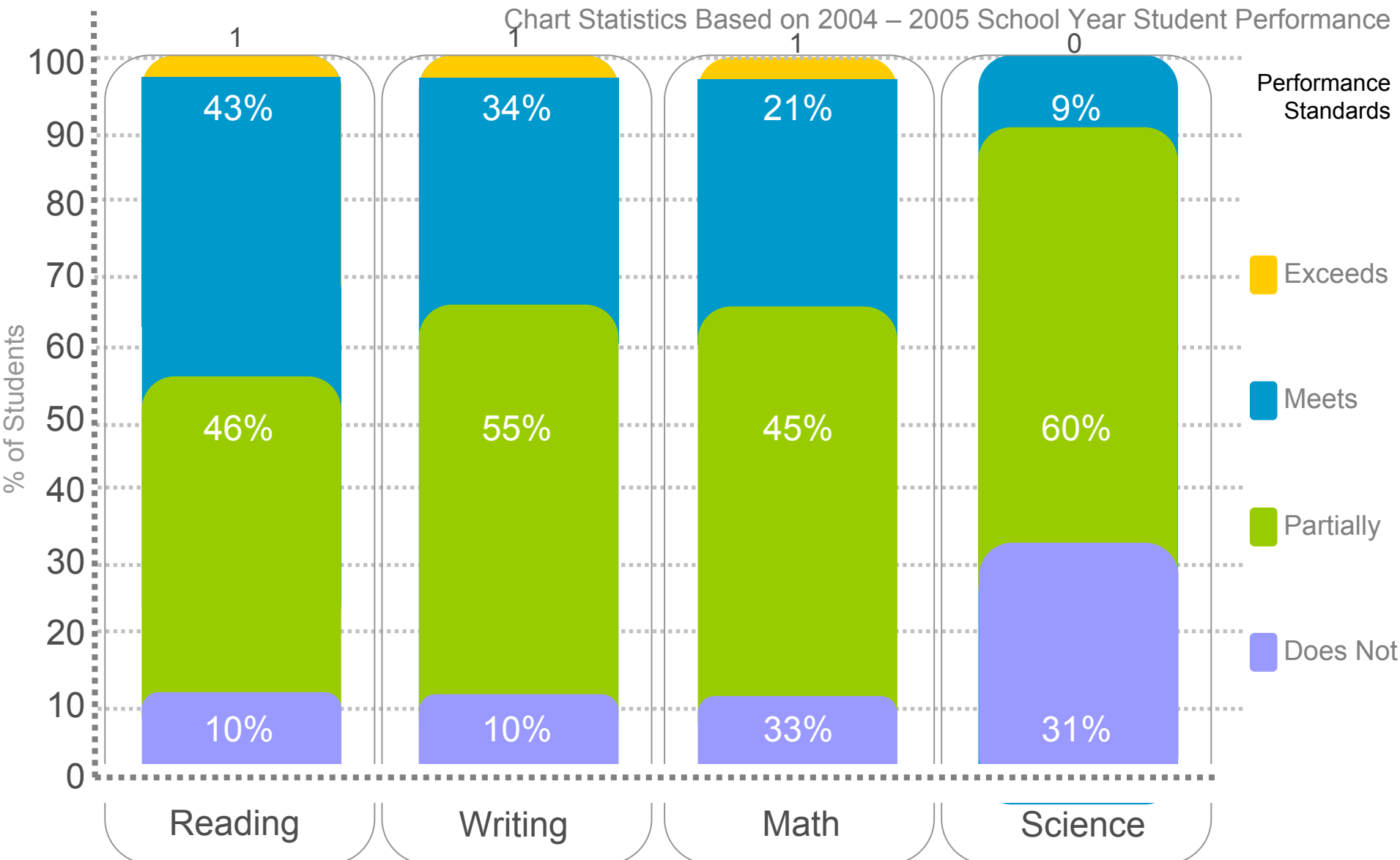




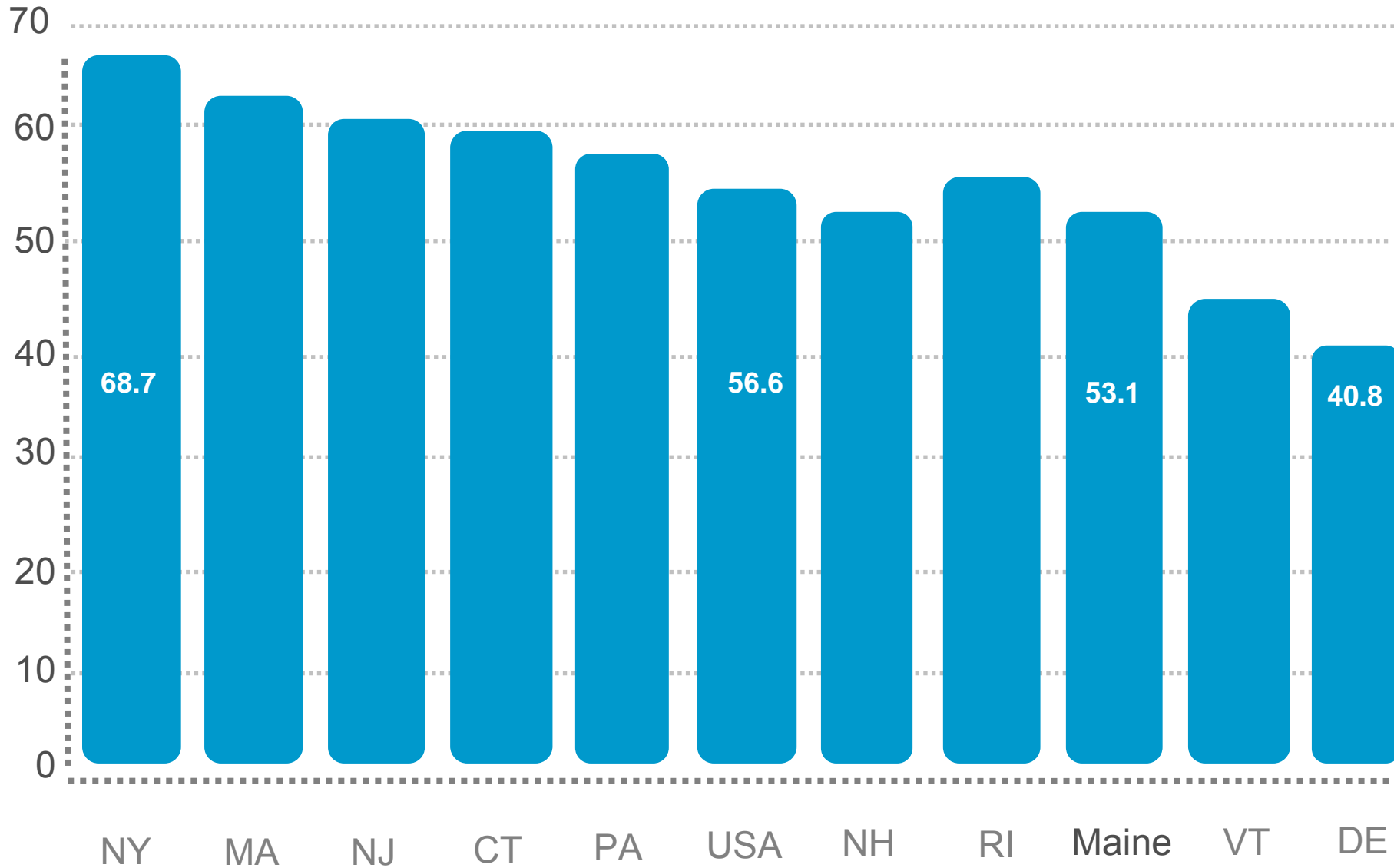
# MEA Performance Analysis

## Grade Eleven Performance Level Distribution

Chart Statistics Based on 2004 – 2005 School Year Student Performance



## % Students Proceeding from High School Directly to College (2004)



## Why LSRS

The LSRS Initiative is based on numerous reports and commissions, with all the key stakeholders involved.

They have all said the same thing:

*Restructuring central office administration will allow us to reinvest money where it is most needed — in the classroom.*



## Why LSRS

“Goal: Create an efficient educational system – one with a more streamlined structure but still allowing for local voice and connection.”

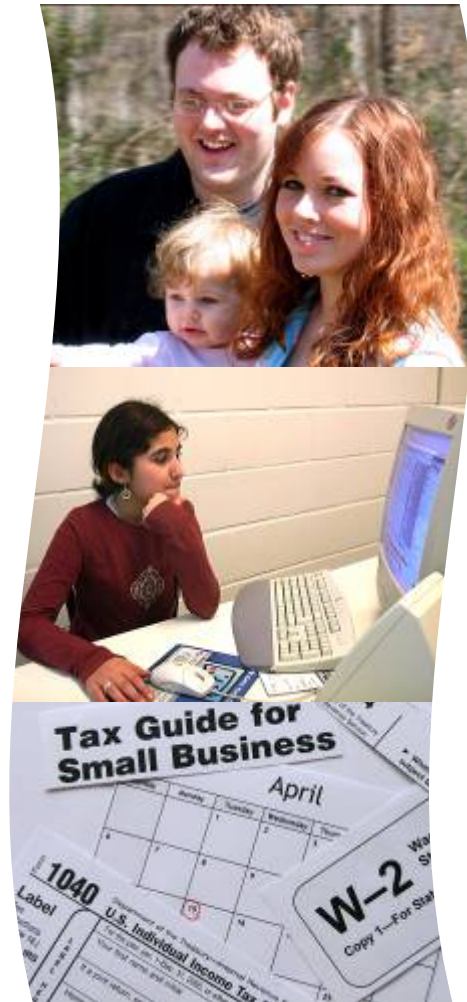
*-- The Learning State: Maine  
Schooling for the 21st Century,  
Select Panel on Revisioning  
Education in Maine, September  
2006*



## Why LSRS

“Regional cooperation can improve services while cutting costs, an outcome that ought to be equally welcome to parents, students and taxpayers.”

-- *A Case for Cooperation, Maine Children's Alliance, August 2006*





## Why LSRS

“Maine’s unusually high expenditures on a number of state-level administrative functions as well as on K-12 education are likely squeezing out necessary spending in other areas even as they contribute to high taxes.”

*-- Charting Maine’s Future,  
Brookings Institution, October 2006*



## Why LSRS

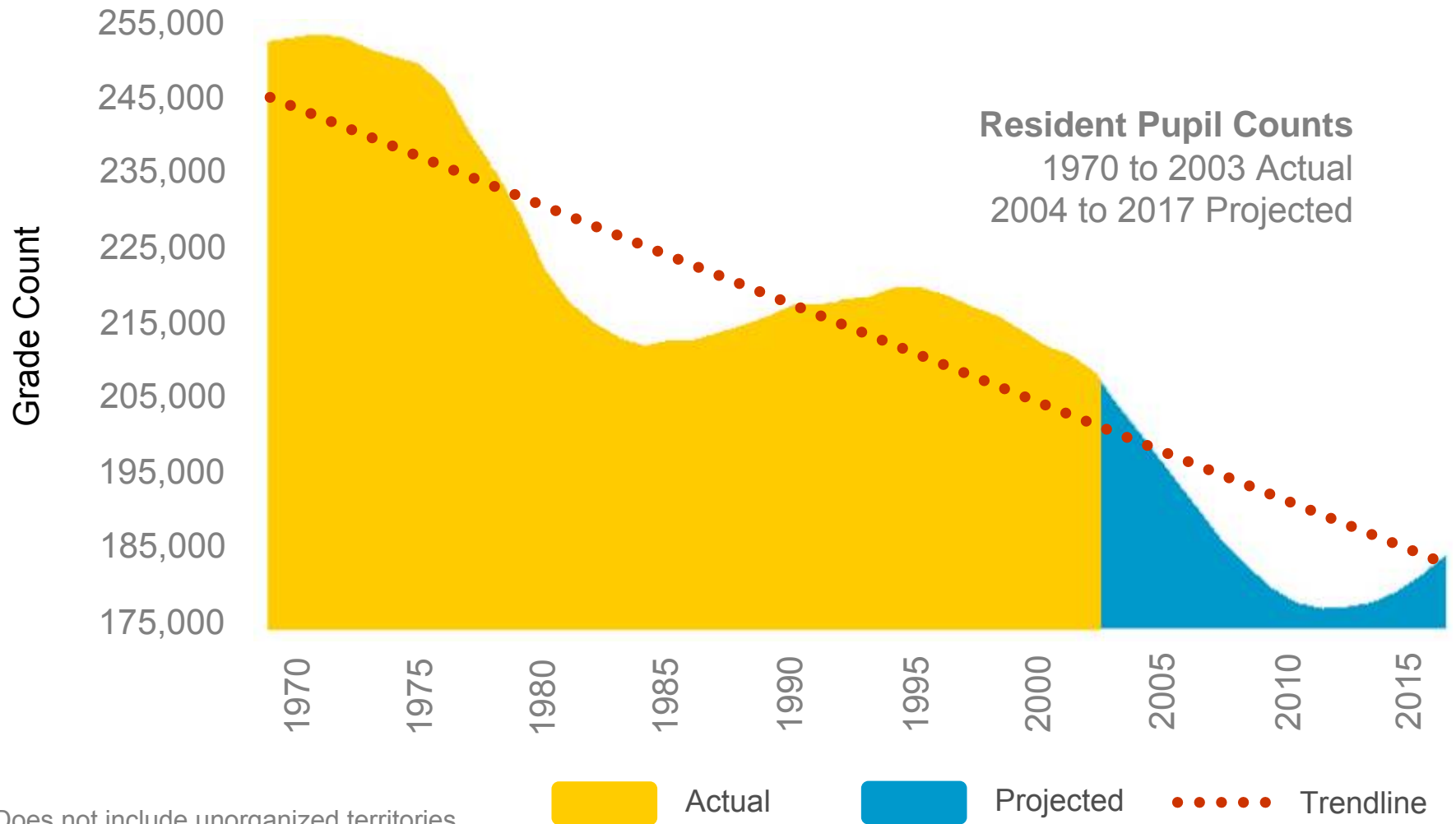
“Maine is at least as much ‘Administrationland’ as ‘Vacationland’ given the large numbers of especially state and school-district administrative personnel that seem to populate the state’s expensive bureaucracies.”

-- *Charting Maine’s Future*,  
Brookings Institution, October  
2006



## Why LSRS

Declining enrollments cannot sustain heavy administrative costs.



\* Does not include unorganized territories

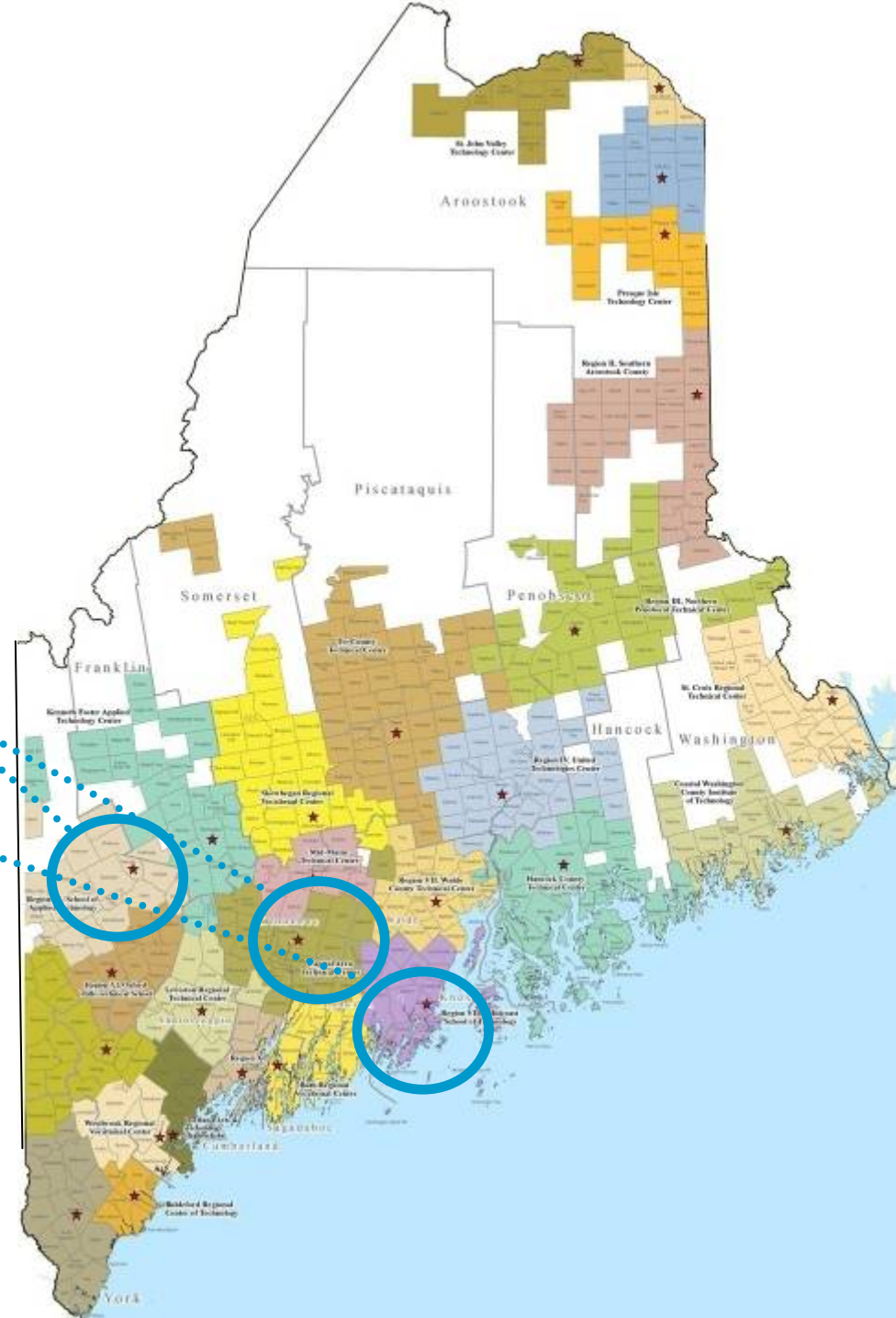
# Why LSRS

It's working locally

SAD 17, Oxford Hills

SAD 47, Waterville, Winslow

SAD 50, SAD 5, Mid-Coast  
School of Technology





## What LSRS does

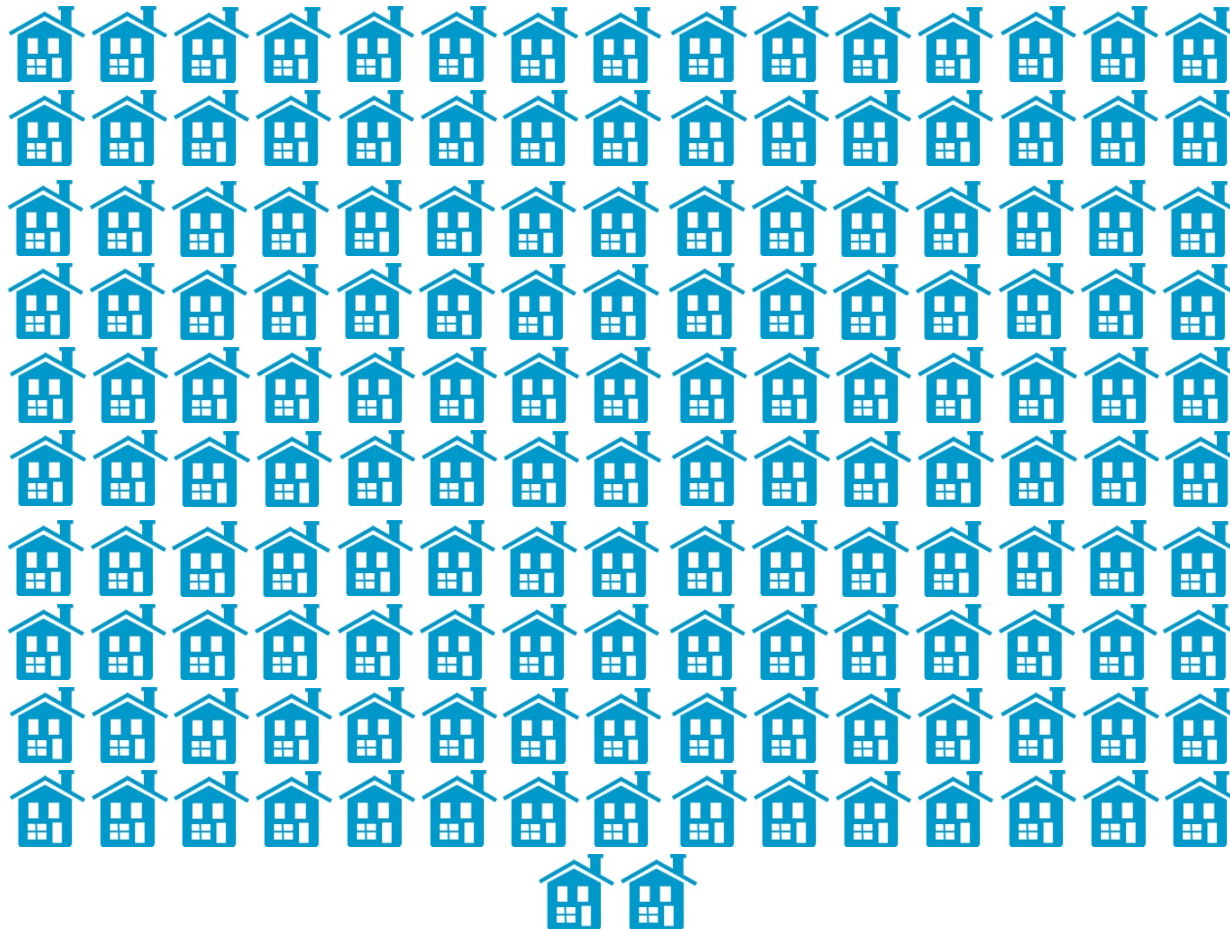
- Keeps local schools local
- Boosts classroom resources
- Improves student outcomes





## What LSRS does

Takes a bold step in the right direction, by consolidating **central office administration** to reduce costs and gain efficiencies



## What LSRS does

Reinvests statewide savings in teachers and students to ensure all students are ready for Career, College, and Citizenship.

“The committee believes that work on the concept of regionalization of school governance has the potential to produce better results in student learning given the limited financial and personnel resources available.”

– *A Regional Community Teaching and Learning Together, State Board of Education, January 1997*



## How it works

**Reduces** administration and ...

Maine has 152 district administrations and nearly twice that many districts. Local Schools, Regional Support merges those 152 into 26 Regional Centers, each with one superintendent and one regional school board supporting schools in several cities and towns.



152  
26



***Local Schools, Regional Support***  
Regional Centers for Educational Excellence

## How it works

... **retains** local oversight

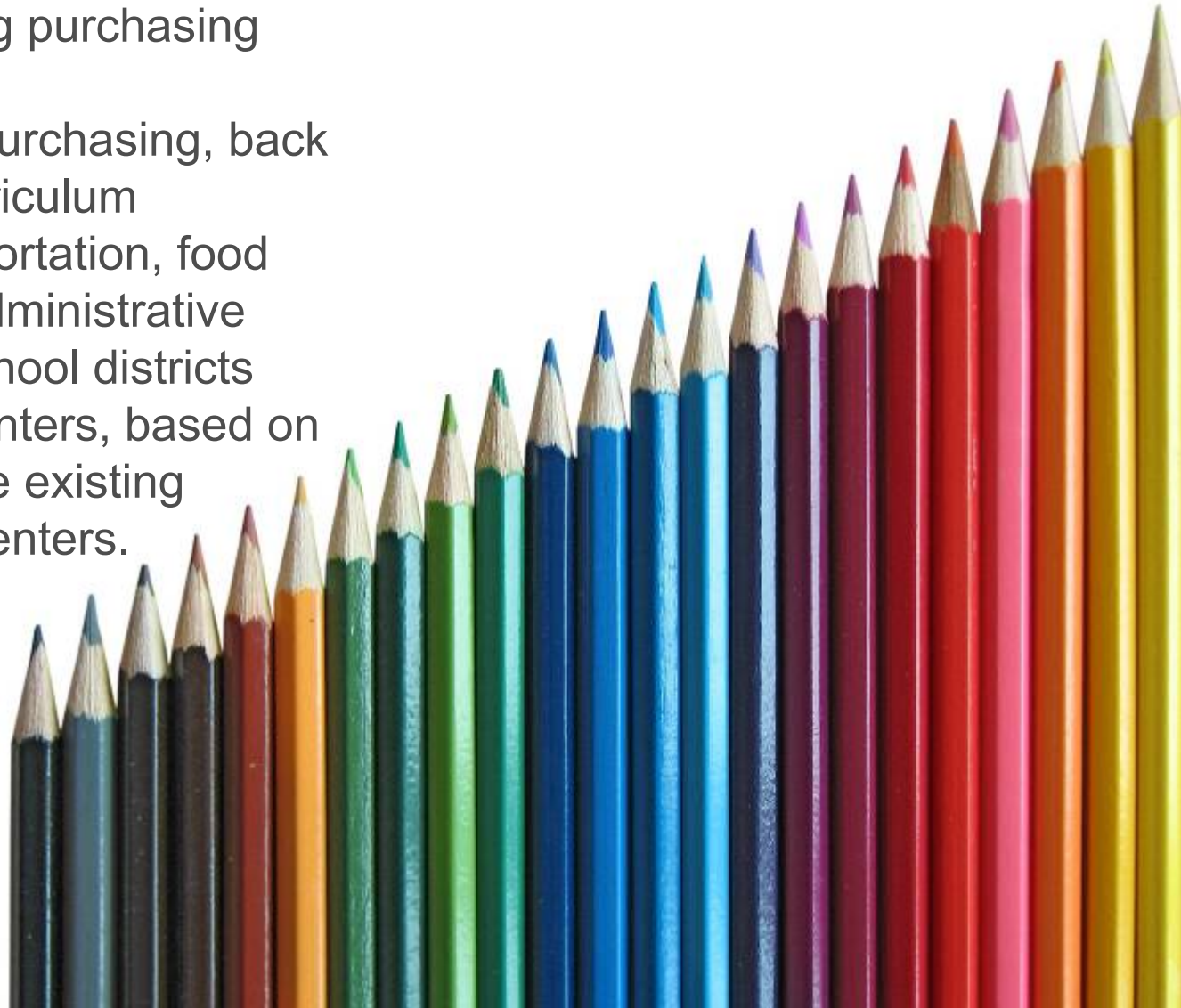
The boards will be governed by representatives from the communities they serve, guaranteeing every **parent, teacher, and community member** a voice in how their schools are governed.



## How it works

... while streamlining purchasing

LSRS streamlines purchasing, back office functions, curriculum coordination, transportation, food service and other administrative duties at existing school districts into 26 Regional Centers, based on the geography of the existing Career Technical Centers.





LSRS does not close or consolidate schools  
— only administration

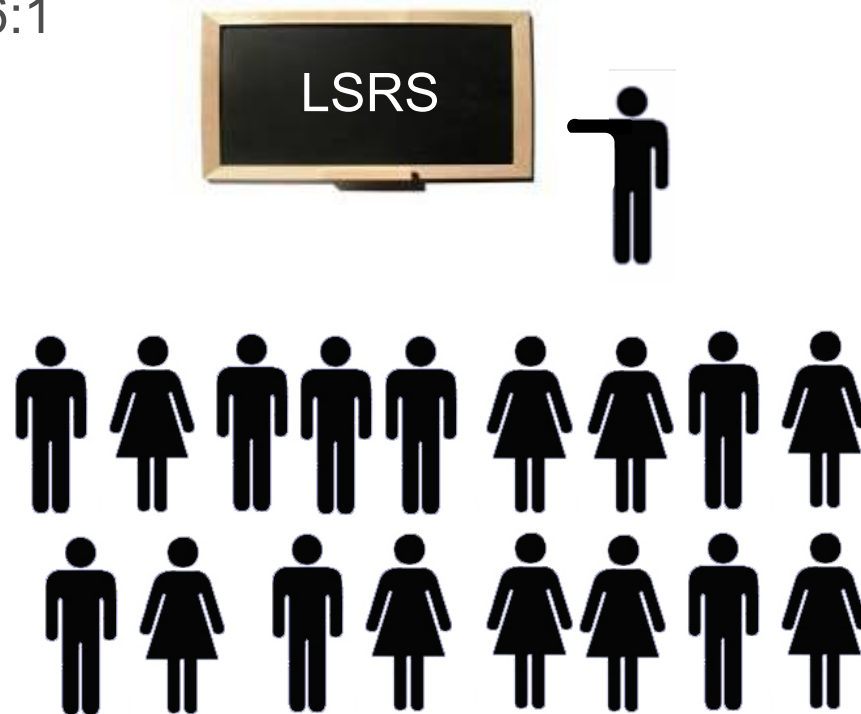
The LSRS Initiative centralizes administration, but does not consolidate schools.

Education funding continues under the same formula, only with a smaller amount for administration, and larger amounts for various instructional services and programs.



## LSRS and class size

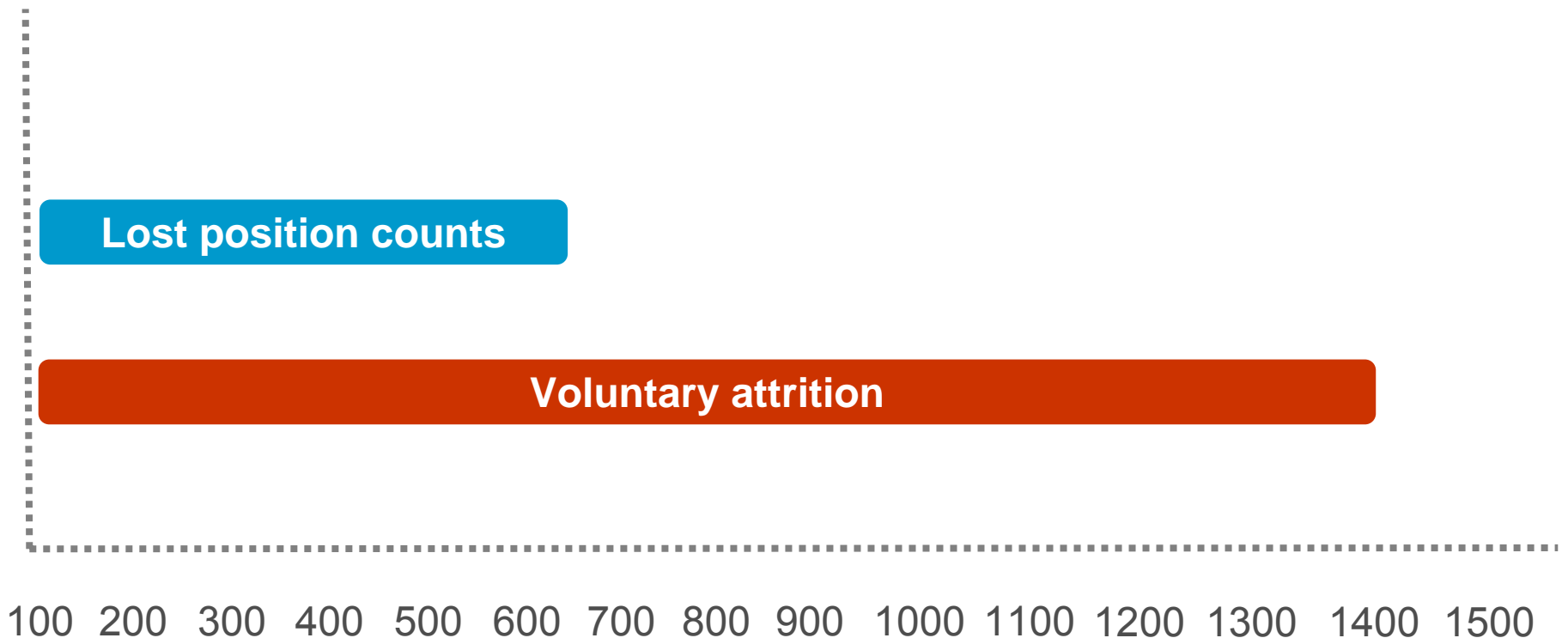
Student-teacher ratios at the middle and high school level will change from 16:1 to 17:1.



## LSRS: No teacher layoffs

649 position counts lost due to change in  
class size

1,413 teachers due to attrition from last school year  
(2005-06) to this school year (2006-07)



## Role of online learning

In keeping with our mission of 21st century education for 21st century Maine, technology will play an ever greater role resulting in:

- Increased efficiencies
- Technology learning for our students

Again, LSRS leverages existing success stories, from special programs like MLTI, expanded AP course offerings, and Early College courses.



## Benefits

A full-time principal for every school and increased teacher salaries:

- 151 schools currently without a full-time principal would get one
- \$3.6 million investment in teacher salaries over the next 2 years





## Benefits

\$2,000 scholarships to encourage college access for all students\*

More than 15,000 students over the next four years

*\* Estimated average scholarship: one-half tuition reimbursement at community college rates for two years for students who attend a public post-secondary school in Maine and are eligible for Pell grants*



## Benefits

Expansion of the laptop program to Grades 7 through 12

72,000 additional computers for Grades 9 through 12... more than 100,000 laptops for Grades 7 through 12



## Benefits

Increased professional development for all teachers

New Teacher Learning Communities, with \$20 million in teacher development



## Benefits

Local savings that go directly to property tax relief

More than \$170 million in local savings for property tax relief by achieving 55% state aid to local education

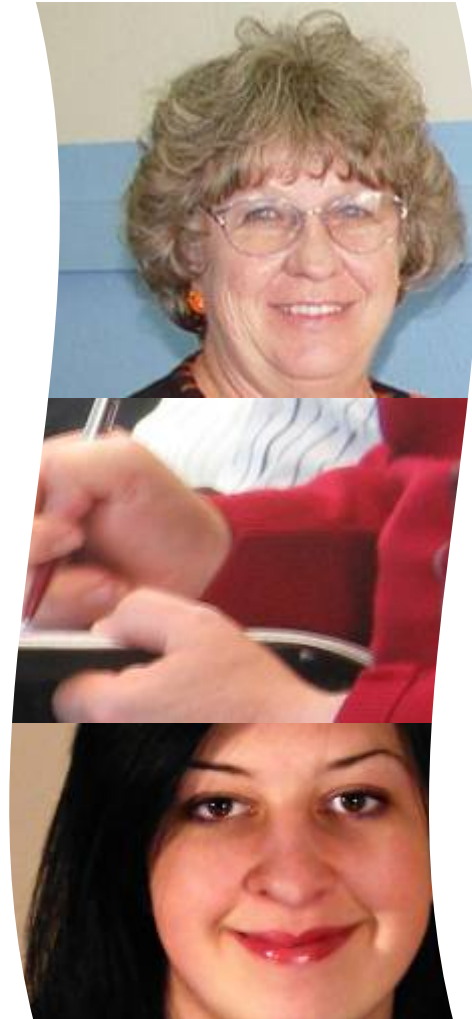


## Benefits

A voice for every teacher

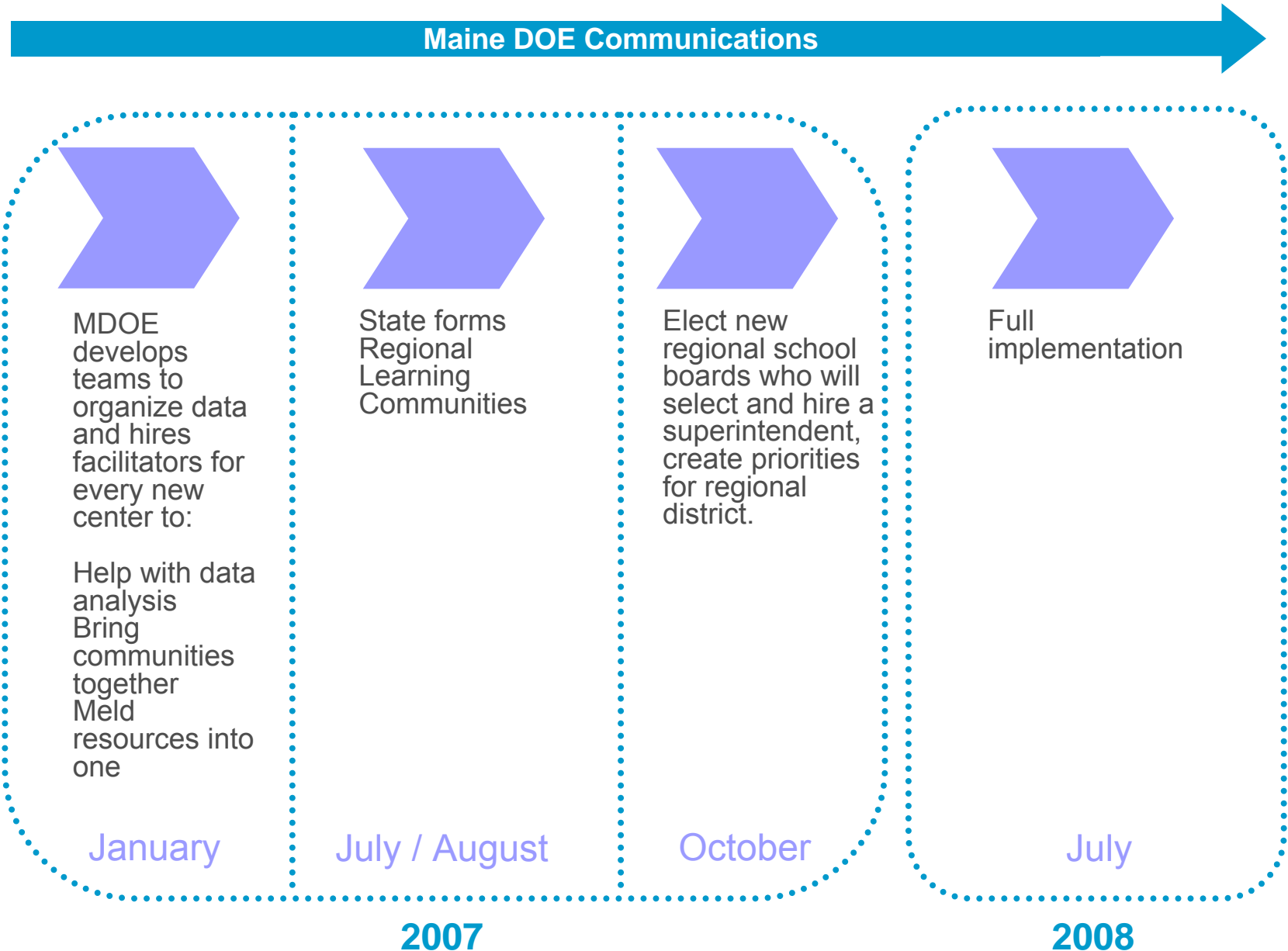
Excellence in every classroom

Guaranteeing every parent,  
student and community member a  
voice in how their schools are  
governed





## Implementation and timeline



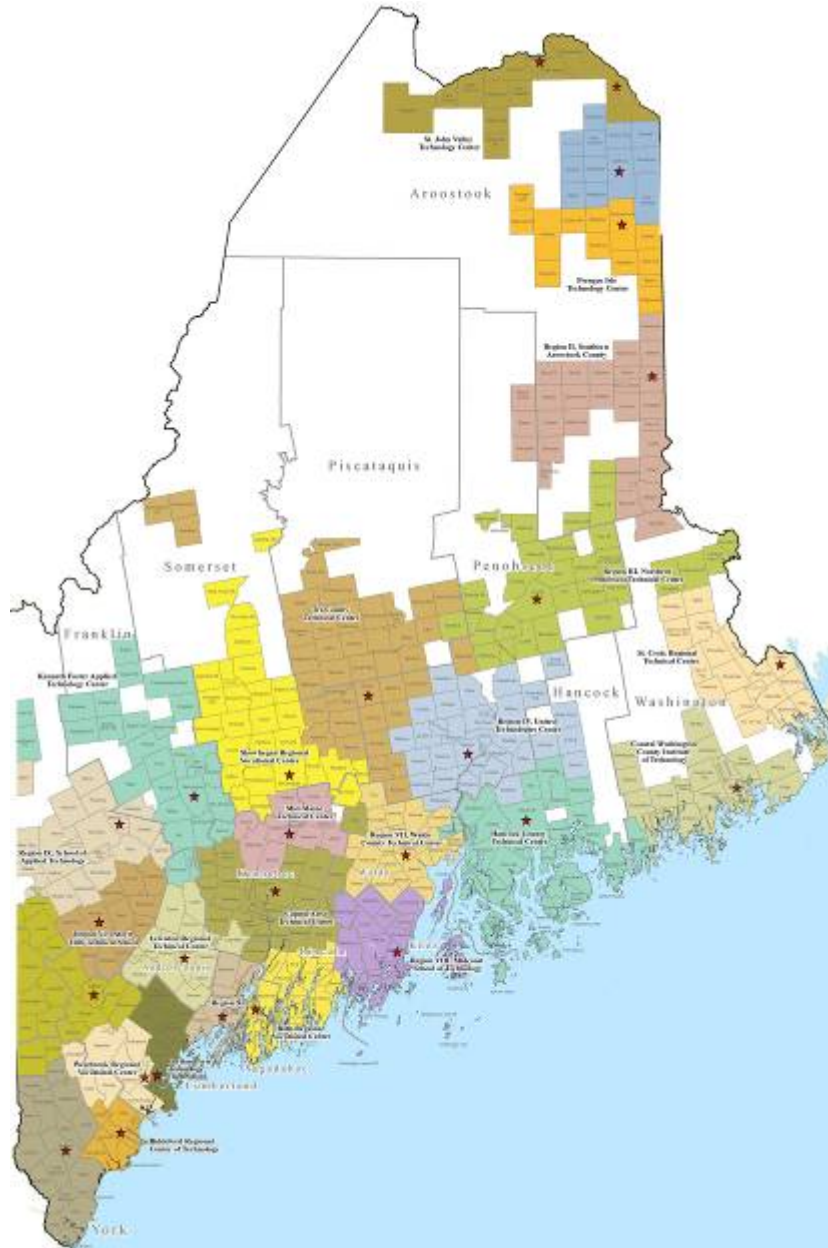
## Success is you

Successful implementation will involve participation from:

- Students
- Parents
- Teachers
- Taxpayers
- Superintendents
- School boards
- Principals
- Other educators
- Business community
- Legislators
- State government
- Municipal officials, staff and elected
- General public



26 districts



## Why 26?

- Modeled after the geography (and existing collaborations) of the existing Career Technical Education regions Designed to be easily accessible geographically
- Like-minded communities

# Governance

Regional

Local

Management at the  
regional center level





## **For more information**

More information and discussion of the LSRS initiative and its implementation is available online at:

<http://www.maine.gov/education/supportingschools>